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and firm at 86c per gallon. Flour was dull and unchanged. Wheat was dull and in lower, closing at \$1.15, cash, and \$1.20, @ \$1.20, 1/2c lower. Corn was less active, and 1/2c lower, closing at 56 1/2c cash, and 57c seller March. Oats were quiet and steady, closing at 43 1/2c cash, and 42 1/2c seller March. Rye was quiet and firm at 82 1/2c for fresh receipts. Barley was dull and easier at \$1.54 @ \$1.55 for No. 3, closing weak. Live hogs were dull and weak, with sales at \$4.75 @ \$4.70 for poor to choice. The cattle market was active and steady. Sheep were quiet, and a shade lower.

If the Senate should devote fifteen minutes that would otherwise be vitally wasted—any some fifteen minutes during which Logan would have spoken on the advantages of brown paper as a standard of weights and measures—to pass the Ammery bill the House sent to it some weeks ago, it would do a very useful thing. Why make a lot of insignificant man complaints by allowing them to play victim? Seniors would have been forgotten long ago if Congress had not annually refused to take off his badge of martyrdom. Now Senator Gordon has introduced a new bill for that purpose. His passage will require as much time as that of the general act. The Senate should drop it and pass the latter.

Senator Morton stated in the debate on the redistribution of the currency that he was in favor of equalizing the currency by increasing it by \$50,000,000. He would not withdraw the \$50,000,000 as proposed from New England, but would distribute an extra supply, as above, in the West and South. Prudent men will agree with Senator Morton, who said that he looked with infinite dread on any such scheme. Senator Morton said that even if inflation did cause speculation he favored it because he believed in speculation. Speculation had given us \$50,000 miles of railroad. Yes; but as another member showed, fifty-eight of these railroads are unable to pay dividends. Again, Senator Morton argued that currency stimulates like abundance of food, forgetting that there may be had currency as well as food, and that to stimulate business with paper currency is to let the man who put given spectacles on his horse and fed him with shavings, and wondered that the creature died just as he was getting used to the diet.

A declaration of purposes and principles was unanimously adopted by the National Grange yesterday. They mean to co-operate for the mutual advancement in every way—morally, socially, and industrially. As they energetically put it, they propose to meet together, talk together, work together, live together, do everything together, except vote to do anything together. Very sensibly, every Patron is left free to act with any party that he thinks will best carry out his political ideas. They take pains to disown anything like hostility to middlemen or to railroads, but they will not have a surplus of the former nor submit to any monopoly by the latter. There is a plea for education of a practical sort in agricultural colleges. The women of the country and their friends have not failed to notice that women have taken part in the deliberations and the committee work of the Grange, and the declaration closes with a pledge that has more promise in it for the rights of woman than any other thing that has been said or done in her behalf in America. This will not be considered extravagant when it is remembered that the Grange, which thus admits women into membership and position, and binds itself to inculcate a proper appreciation of her sphere and abilities, has a larger constituency than any other non-political organization in the country.

PUBLIC BLACKMAILING.
The refusal of the Secretary of the Treasury to furnish all the documents in the Butler-Kelley case leaves it more or less involved in obscurity. Enough has been developed, however, to show that a system of blackmailing the mercantile community has been carried on, and copies of contracts have been submitted which give the form of the authority under which it has been pursued. The details of operation, however, the manner in which the officials have secured their motives, the names of merchants who have been victimized by Kelley, Sanborn, and the rest, and the amounts received by them and by the Treasury, are still in mystery, owing to the disingenuous excuse of the Secretary that the publication would enable the parties delinquent to take steps to evade the operation of the law. The contracts which have been made are four in number, and were executed under the authority of a bill approved May 8, 1873, and introduced by that gentleman on many grievances, Ben Butler, whose friends have held the contract, and who has personally appeared before the Ways and Means Committee to urge them not to take any action in the way of abolishing the blackmail system—the system which was applied some time ago to Phelps, Dodge & Co., and more recently to Jordan, Marsh & Co. The first contract was made by Secretary Boutwell with William H. Kelley, of New York, who claimed that he knew of \$100,000 due to the United States for internal revenue taxes, for his services in collecting which he was to receive one-half of the gross sum collected. The second contract was made in August, 1872, between Mr. Richardson, then Acting-Secretary of the Treasury, and John D. Sanborn, who knew of \$500,000 due upon liquor, which he was authorized to collect upon the same terms. The third contract was made by Mr. Boutwell with J. Nicholson Elbert, of Philadelphia, upon the same conditions, to collect \$100,000 due for internal revenue taxes from certain corporations. The fourth was made between Mr. Richardson and John Clark, of Philadelphia, who discovered that \$200,000 was due the Government from certain deceased persons' estates, which he was to collect for \$100,000 compensation.

Having obtained this much information from the reluctant Secretary, there are several reasons why the House should make its request for complete information in an emphatic and unmistakable manner. The excuse that the publicity of these documents would prejudice the collection of the delinquent taxes, and enable the parties to evade the operation of the law, is altogether too thin. The last contract was made in September, 1873, six months ago, and if the evils have not yet been brought to the money collected, then it is very clear that a remarkably elaborate system of blackmailing is going on, or that the party holding the contract is not competent to collect the tax. This is one reason for thorough investigation. The second reason, the Butler introduced the bill, that his friends hold the contract, that he has made a personal effort to break the matter up, and that he is just now presenting

ing an unusual number of grievances before the public, which is a very conclusive sign that something is rotten. The third reason is, that the developments in the case of Phelps, Dodge & Co., and more particularly in that of Jordan, Marsh & Co., in which a hired detective was kept in the employ of the firm for two years in charge of the very books from which he is striving to prove a system of false invoicing, show that a disgraceful detective-system of blackmailing was carried on in these two cases, which makes it probable that the same system has been carried on in others. The last and strongest reason of all is, that this whole business of employing spies, detectives, and informers, to watch business men "on shares," is flagrant and infamous, and should be torn up, root and branch. It gives unprincipled men an opportunity to prey upon the commercial community and blackmail merchants into compromise. It turns the Treasury Department into a partnership with some of the worst characters in the country, and places them in positions where they can tamper with books and accounts, and manufacture charges against merchants, or so involve them in speculation that they can only escape by compromise. It gives disgraced spies an opportunity to revivify revenge as in the case of the grain-warehouseing firm of Woodruff & Robinson, New York, against whom heinous charges of defrauding the revenue were made. The existence of this system is an insult to the whole business community and a disgrace to a Government which pretends to be free and republican. The House should demand, therefore, in the most peremptory manner, every document connected with these contracts, and not only thoroughly investigate this special case, but also abolish the whole system of employing spies and informers to go prowling around stores and counting-rooms under promise of retaining half of what they can extort.

THE IRON-MASTERS.
The iron and steel men of Pennsylvania had a general meeting in Philadelphia recently to win over their distressed condition. They published various statements relating to the iron business, including an elaborate one on the cost of producing pig-iron. This was arranged by years, from 1850 to 1873, inclusive. The table gives the cost of the iron on the furnace bank per ton of 2,500 pounds, as follows:

| Year. | Price per Ton. | Price per Ton. |
|-------|----------------|----------------|
| 1850 | \$11.25 | \$11.25 |
| 1851 | 11.50 | 11.50 |
| 1852 | 11.75 | 11.75 |
| 1853 | 12.00 | 12.00 |
| 1854 | 12.25 | 12.25 |
| 1855 | 12.50 | 12.50 |
| 1856 | 12.75 | 12.75 |
| 1857 | 13.00 | 13.00 |
| 1858 | 13.25 | 13.25 |
| 1859 | 13.50 | 13.50 |
| 1860 | 13.75 | 13.75 |
| 1861 | 14.00 | 14.00 |
| 1862 | 14.25 | 14.25 |
| 1863 | 14.50 | 14.50 |
| 1864 | 14.75 | 14.75 |
| 1865 | 15.00 | 15.00 |
| 1866 | 15.25 | 15.25 |
| 1867 | 15.50 | 15.50 |
| 1868 | 15.75 | 15.75 |
| 1869 | 16.00 | 16.00 |
| 1870 | 16.25 | 16.25 |
| 1871 | 16.50 | 16.50 |
| 1872 | 16.75 | 16.75 |
| 1873 | 17.00 | 17.00 |

The statement includes the cost of the several items of which these sums are made up, and the progressive increase of each. We give these at several periods, before and after the war:

| Cost of | 1850. | 1855. | 1860. | 1865. | 1870. |
|-----------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Coal | 1.50 | 1.75 | 2.00 | 2.25 | 2.50 |
| Limestone | 1.00 | 1.25 | 1.50 | 1.75 | 2.00 |
| Labor | 1.00 | 1.25 | 1.50 | 1.75 | 2.00 |
| Interest | 1.00 | 1.25 | 1.50 | 1.75 | 2.00 |
| Cost of | 1850. | 1855. | 1860. | 1865. | 1870. |
| Coal | 1.50 | 1.75 | 2.00 | 2.25 | 2.50 |
| Limestone | 1.00 | 1.25 | 1.50 | 1.75 | 2.00 |
| Labor | 1.00 | 1.25 | 1.50 | 1.75 | 2.00 |
| Interest | 1.00 | 1.25 | 1.50 | 1.75 | 2.00 |

This table shows that the advance in the cost of producing a ton of pig-iron since 1850, when it was \$11.25, to 1873, when it was \$17.00, has been in cost of ore, \$6.25; of coal, \$1.25; of limestone, \$1.00; of contingencies, interest, etc., \$1.12; and of labor, \$1.23. In 1850 the labor received 16 per cent of the cost of the product; in 1873, it received 12 per cent. The enormous increase in the cost of ore and of coal indicate that Pennsylvania is fast losing her supremacy as a producer of iron. If her ores are getting so lean and her coal so costly, then the manufacturer of iron should be left free to go to other districts where these disadvantages do not exist. But Pennsylvania insists that Congress shall lay a tax upon the consumers of iron that will enable her to manufacture the article at a profit, notwithstanding her ores are failing, and her coal becoming so costly as to render it unprofitable in the manufacture of iron. The reader will not fail to notice the immense increase in the cost of limestone in Pennsylvania! Ought not Congress to protect that article?

The bearing of the tariff on the cost of producing iron, and its effect upon wages, is well shown by these tables. From 1854 to 1858, the duty on imported pig-iron was 25 per cent; in 1858, it was reduced to 24 per cent, and so continued until 1861, when it was raised to 40 per cent, and in 1864 it was increased to 50 per cent. The average wages paid per ton of pig-iron from 1850 to 1861 was \$2.15; from 1862 to 1864, inclusive, under the duty of 50 per cent, the wages averaged \$2.15 per ton; from 1865 to 1873, inclusive, under the duty of 50 per cent, the wages averaged \$2.15 per ton. From another table given, showing the cost of producing bar-iron, we learn the prices paid by the manufacturer for the pig-iron. Thus in 1853 the cost of producing pig was \$16.50 per ton, and the cost of the pig to the manufacturer was \$25.25. In 1864, the cost of producing pig was \$20.97, and the cost of the pig to the manufacturer was \$34.40; in 1873 it was advanced to \$38.00; and since 1865 to 1873 has averaged \$46. From 1864 to 1873, inclusive, the average cost of producing pig-iron was \$28.13 per ton, leaving a profit of 618 per cent, or an increase per ton over the price before the high duties of about 80 per cent. Of this increase, Capital took \$6 and Labor \$1. In 1873, the tariff was reduced to 37 per cent, and in that year and in 1873 the production of iron was unprecedentedly large. Nevertheless, the iron-producers now claim that they are flat on their backs. They say that a large number of furnaces are out of blast, and that more are going out unless something is done for them. A more piteous howl has not been heard for a long time. If the result of twelve years of stiff protection is a general collapse of the iron industry, would it not be well for Congress to repeal the duties altogether, send these beggars to the poor-house, and let people buy iron where they can get it cheapest?

The Golden Age contains an article, by a gentleman who claims to have had unusual opportunities for observation, which reflects very severely upon the Naval Academy at Annapolis. The yearly cost of this Academy is \$550,000, and the number of graduates in 1873 was 25, from which it appears that they cost the people \$22,000 each. The writer of the article in question thinks that this would not be an extravagant price for a good boy, but, in point of fact, the Academy is morally rotten, and from 10 to 25 per cent of the graduates are moral wrecks. The charges which this writer brings against them are smoking, drunkenness, gambling, carrying all kinds of contraband, obscene and disgusting talk at table, and obscene contempt for discipline. In addition to this, he alleges that the students of Annapolis

ation occurs on ships-of-war grows out of the fact that old seamen of experience don't like to be ordered about by boys, who make up in ferocity of language what they lack in force of character.

WARREN COUNTY BONDS.
In the United States Circuit Court yesterday, Judge Drummond overruled the demurrer to the replications in the Warren County (Ill.) bond case. These suits are of public interest, but not only on account of the amount involved, but as presenting a new phase of the liability of towns and counties on bonds issued by them in aid of the building of railroads. The arguments were very elaborate, ex-Chief-Justice Lawrence and Mr. Harding appearing for the county and Judge T. G. Wilson and Z. B. McGee, Esq., for the bondholders. The case involved the legality of \$20

MONETARY.

the following were the receipts and shipments at

60; 2,750 broilers at \$14.55; 1,000 broils do at \$9.20; 800 broils laid at \$3.90; 500 tons do seller cash at \$9.00; 100 tons do at \$8.97; 750 tons at \$8.95; 750 tons do seller April at \$9.15; 500 tons at \$9.12; 100 tons do at \$9.10; 200 tons at pickled hams (12 lbs) at 105¢; 100 tons do lbs at 10¢; 50,000 the green hams (12 lbs) at 75¢; 50,000 the short ribs, packed, and 100 boxes at 75¢; 40 boxes do at \$9.00; 100,000 lbs do at 70¢, seller April at \$9.00; 100,000 lbs do at 70¢; 200,000 lbs, buyer April, at \$14¢; 60,000 cases of apples at \$7.65; 100,000 lbs do at 7¢; 90 the bacon hams at 135¢; canned and stacked; 40 tons yellow grease at 35¢. The stock of lard at this point is estimated at 100 tons. The stock of pork is variously estimated all the way from 150,000 to 180,000 cri-

building of small propeller, to be run as a ferry or excursion boat on the lake, adjacent to port, is contemplated.

The City of Chicago is being rebuilt at Miller's and will be as good as new when completed. The rebuilding is estimated at \$18,000.

The King Sisters is having a new centre, bow, rails, gun, ceiling, forward and aft, and other repairs, at a cost of \$10,000.

The White Cloud has had new upper works and necessary repairs; Schr Barber's new horse mill and Jennie Miller are also being repaired.

The lumber vessel Trimmae is having a new hull to replace the one washed off last fall.

Work on new masts have been placed in the lumber schooner Ava, and other work done. The schooner Neoprosity is under construction at a cost of \$10,000.

The schooner Stanchions, &c., are being put into the vessels Kearsage and Kearsage.

[illegible]

CHICAGO.

WEDNESDAY EVENING, Feb. 11.

Receipts of live stock during the week have been:

| | Cattle | Hogs | Sheep, |
|----------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Monday..... | 13,868 | 19,287 | 881 |
| Tuesday..... | 13,968 | 15,833 | 2,198 |
| Wednesday..... | 13,999 | 14,650 | 2,550 |
| Total..... | 41,795 | 49,770 | 13,419 |

Imports have been as follows:

| | Cattle | Hogs | Sheep. |
|----------------|--------|-------|--------|
| Monday..... | 1,304 | 1,488 | 10 |
| Tuesday..... | 1,704 | 5,851 | 1,268 |
| Wednesday..... | 1,388 | 7,727 | 7,272 |

The market was a very quiet trading at the export market, which was looked at through the medium of a Canada commission from the advanced prices

[illegible]

WHITE STAR LINE

HARRYING THE UNITED STATES MAIL.

Impassioned new and full-powered Steamships for
Rapid Advancing. (Over 1000 Tons). (Cable, etc.)
New York on Saturdays and Liverpool on
Mays. Rates as low as any first-class line.
on Great Britain and Ireland. (21 September)
W South Clark-st., Chicago.

ALFRED LAURENSEN, Agent.

BITTERS

PERFECTION

OKER'S BITTERS

The total expenses were not of \$8.51 per pupil.

ATTENDANCE

The Superintendent presented attendance at the school which the following recap:

High School—Number of number belonging, 638; attendance, 606; per cent of attendance, 94.9.

Normal School—Whole average number belonging, attendance, 119.2; per cent attendance, 91.7.

Whole number—Average number belonging, 35; attendance, 31,894; per cent attendance, 91.1.

